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ADOLESCENTS IN FATHER-ABSENT HOMES :

A CASE STUDY

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## ABSTRACT

This project paper investigates the impact of father-absence on two adolescent boys in Malaysia. The subjects chosen were controlled in terms of their gender, race, and family socio-economic status. The modified Mooney Problem Checklist, the Malaise Inventory, the modified Child Behaviour Checklist and the Personality Test Inventory were used to collect the relevant data. Interviews were conducted with the subjects, their mothers and their teachers to gather further information regarding the subjects and their families .

Qualitative analysis of the data revealed that father-absence has negative impacts on the psychological adjustment, self-concept, and academic performance of the subjects. The results showed that adolescents from father-absent homes started smoking and drinking at a young age, performed badly in school, had poor self-concept, and portrayed many psychological and emotional problems like anxiety, aggression and depression.

However, the onset of father-absence and the age of the subjects were found to affect the impact of father-absence on adolescent development. Father-absence at a younger age was found to be more detrimental. In addition, adolescents' adjustment capacity appeared to be affected by their cognitive maturity because the younger subject portrayed more emotional instability and was more dependent compared to the older subject. However, as the subjects became more mature, they seemed to be more in control of their lives and appeared to be slowly distancing themselves from their deviant peers.

ABSTRAK

REMAJA DARIPADA KELUARGA YANG TIADA BAPA:

SATU KAJIAN KES

Kertas Projek ini mengkaji kesan ketiadaan bapa ke atas dua orang remaja di Malaysia. Subjek-subjek untuk kajian ini dipilih setelah kawalan dibuat ke atas jantina, bangsa dan latar belakang socio-ekonomi keluarga mereka. Senarai semak masalah Mooney yang telah diubahsuai, Inventori Malaise, senarai semak kelakuan kanak-kanak dan inventori personaliti digunakan untuk mengumpul data yang berkenaan. Di samping itu, temuduga diadakan dengan subjek-subjek, ibu-ibu and guru-guru mereka untuk mendapatkan maklumat lanjutan mengenai subjek and keluarganya.

Analisa data secara kualitatif menunjukkan bahwa ketiadaan bapa dalam keluarga mempunyai kesan negatif terhadap penyesuaian psikologi, konsep-diri and pencapaian akademik remaja. Subjek-subjek dalam kajian didapati bermula merokok and minum arak ketika mereka berusia 14 tahun, pencapaian akademik mereka kurang memuaskan dan mereka mempunyai konsep diri yang buruk. Di samping itu, mereka mempamerkan masalah-masalah psikologi and emosi seperti kerunsingan, agresif and kemuraman.

Walaupun, kesan ketiadaan bapa terhadap remaja didapati adalah bergantung kepada umur remaja ketika mereka kehilangan bapa mereka dan juga kematangan remaja. Remaja yang bapanya meninggalkan mereka ketika mereka masih kecil menunjukkan lebih

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